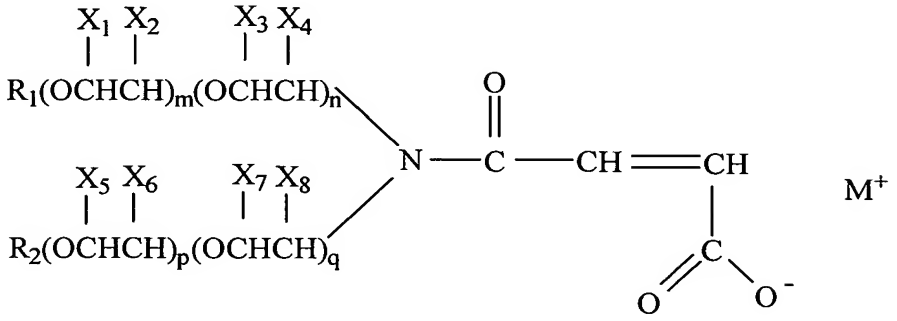
What is claimed is:

1) A composition of matter useful as a detergent which comprises:

a) a first component which is a polymer that is formed from the co-polymerization of:

i) a first monomer having the structure:



in which R_1 and R_2 are each independently selected from the group consisting of: hydrogen, and any C_1 to C_{24} hydrocarbyl group; X_1, X_2, X_3, X_4, X_5, X_6, X_7, X_8 in each occurrence are each independently selected from the group consisting of: hydrogen, ethyl, and methyl; M^+ is selected from the group consisting of: hydrogen, alkali metal ions, an alkaline earth metal ions, ammonium ions, alkyl-substituted ammonium ions, and hydroxyalkyl-substituted ammonium ions; m, n, p, q are each independently any integer in the range of between 0 and about 50, including 0 and 50, subject to the proviso that at least one of m, n, p, q are not zero; and

ii) a second monomer, which is an ethylenically-unsaturated monomer; and

b) one or more second component(s) selected from the group consisting of: fatty acids, esters, alkyl sulfates, alkanolamines, amine oxides, alkali carbonates, water, ethanol, isopropanol, pine oil, sodium chloride, citric acid, citrates, cationic surfactants, anionic surfactants, non-ionic surfactants, nitriloacetic acid, sodium silicate, polymers, alcohol alkoxylates, zeolites, alkali sulfates, hydrotropes, dyes, fragrances, preservatives, polyacrylates, essential oils, alkali hydroxides, alkylaromatic sulfonates, ether sulfates, alkylphenol alkoxylates, fatty acid amides, alpha olefin sulfonates, alkylbenzene sulfonates, paraffin sulfonates, betaines, chelating agents, tallowamine ethoxylates, polyetheramine ethoxylates, ethylene oxide/propylene oxide block copolymers, alcohol ethylene oxide/propylene oxide low foam surfactants, glycols, ethers, methyl ester sulfonates, alkyl polysaccharides, N-methyl glucamides, alkylated sulfonated diphenyl oxide, and polyethylene glycols.

2) A composition according to claim 1 wherein the weight average molecular weight of said polymer is any value in the range of between about 3,000 and 100,000.

3) A composition according to claim 1 further comprising an effective amount of water for dissolving said polymer, so as to provide an aqueous solution comprising said polymer.

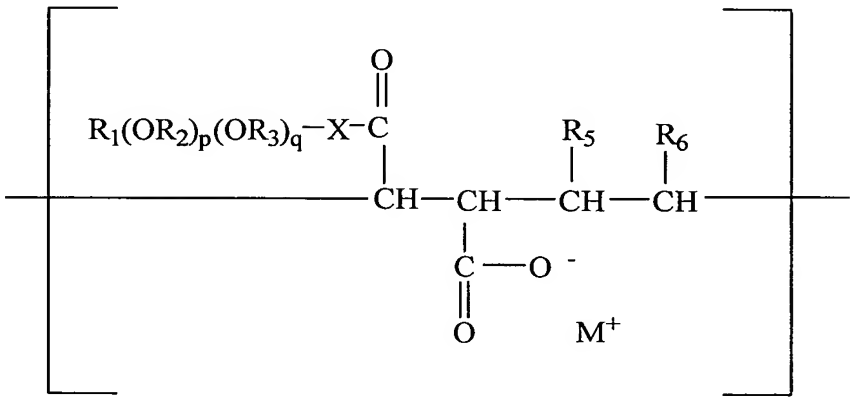
4) An aqueous solution according to claim 3 wherein said polymer is present in any amount between about 0.1 and about 10 % by weight based on the total weight of said solution.

5) A composition according to claim 3 wherein p=0, q=0, n=0, m is about 3, R_2 is hydrogen; R_1 is any C_8 to C_{20} hydrocarbyl group; and at least one of X_1, X_2, X_3, or X_4 is hydrogen.

6) A composition according to claim 1 wherein said ethylenically-unsaturated monomer is selected from the group consisting of: acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, acrylamide, styrene, alpha-methylstyrene, butyl acrylate, and ethylhexyl acrylate.

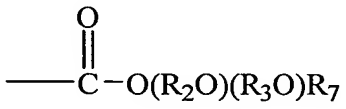
7) A composition useful as a detergent which comprises:

a) a polymer having a weight-average molecular weight of any value in the range of between about 3,000 to 100,000, which polymer includes in its structure a plurality of units described by the formula:



in which X is selected from the group consisting of: oxygen and ---NR_4--- , the sum of p and q is any value between about 1 and about 100, including 1 and 100, wherein R_1 is independently selected from the group consisting of: hydrogen, and any C_1 to C_{20} hydrocarbyl group; R_2 and R_3 may each be the same or different, and when the same they are selected from the group consisting of: any C_1 to C_6 alkyl group, and when R_2 and R_3 are

different they are each independently selected from the group consisting of: any C_1 to C_6 alkyl group; R_4 is independently selected from the group consisting of: hydrogen, and any C_1 to C_6 alkyl group; R_5 and R_6 are each independently selected from the group consisting of: H, --CN, --$CONH_2$ (amide), --$COOR_7$ (ester), --CO_2H, --COO^-, and



in which R_7 is selected from the group consisting of: hydrogen, methyl, and ethyl; and wherein n is sufficient to yield a weight average molecular weight of said polymer of any value in the range of between about 3,000 and 100,000, including salts thereof; M^+ is selected from the group consisting of: hydrogen, alkali metal ions, an alkaline earth metal ions, ammonium ions, alkyl-substituted ammonium ions, and hydroxyalkyl-substituted ammonium ions; and

b) at least one material selected from the group consisting of: fatty acids, esters, alkyl sulfates, alkanolamines, amine oxides, alkali carbonates, water, ethanol, isopropanol, pine oil, sodium chloride, citric acid, citrates, cationic surfactants, anionic surfactants, non-ionic surfactants, nitriloacetic acid, sodium silicate, polymers, alcohol alkoxylates, zeolites, alkali sulfates, hydrotropes, dyes, fragrances, preservatives, polyacrylates, essential oils, alkali hydroxides, alkylaromatic sulfonates, ether sulfates, alkylphenol alkoxylates, fatty acid amides, alpha olefin sulfonates, alkylbenzene sulfonates, paraffin sulfonates, betaines, chelating agents, tallowamine ethoxylates, polyetheramine ethoxylates, ethylene oxide/propylene oxide block copolymers, alcohol ethylene oxide/propylene oxide low foam surfactants, glycols, alkylene glycols, polyalkylene

glycols, ethers, methyl ester sulfonates, alkyl polysaccharides, N-methyl glucamides, alkylated sulfonated diphenyl oxide, and polyethylene glycols.

8) A composition according to claim 7 further comprising an effective amount of water for dissolving said polymer, so as to provide an aqueous solution comprising said polymer.

9) An aqueous solution according to claim 8 wherein said polymer is present in any amount between about 0.1 and about 10 % by weight based on the total weight of said solution.